

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

in response to a request to perform an operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage area:

~~comparing at least one location of the first set of locations to at least one location description, wherein~~

~~the at least one location description has a corresponding property describing a type of operation; and~~

performing the operation upon a given location in the first set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the given location is described in ~~the at least one location description, wherein~~  
the at least one location description has a corresponding property identifying the operation.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the at least one location description is specified by an application program.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the operation is replication.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising:  
obtaining a set of entities, wherein  
the first set of locations comprises a plurality of subsets of locations, and  
an entity in the set of entities has permission to perform the operation on respective data  
in at least one of the plurality of subsets of locations.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein the at least one location description and the corresponding property ~~describing the type of operation~~ are designated by a requester.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising:  
obtaining a designation of the operation to be performed.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein  
the requester manages data in the storage area.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein  
the requester performs a management function of a set of management functions for the storage  
area.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein  
the requester identifies a respective physical location in the storage area corresponding to each  
location described in the at least one location description.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein  
each location described in the at least one location description is specified by  
a beginning location and  
a number of contiguous locations starting at the beginning location.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein  
the at least one location description is designated by a set of indicators, wherein  
the set of indicators comprises an indicator for each respective location of the plurality of  
locations, and  
each indicator of the set of indicators indicates whether the respective location for the  
indicator is described in the at least one location description.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising:  
obtaining a second set of locations; and  
performing a second operation on the second set of locations after the operation is performed on  
the given location.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein  
the at least one location description and the corresponding property ~~describing the type of the~~  
~~operation~~ are designated by the requester; and

the operation and the second operation are designated by the requester.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32 wherein a sieve for the storage area comprises the at least one location description and the corresponding property ~~describing the type of operation~~, and each type of operation in the sieve is performed on the given location if the sieve is specified.

42. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
means for performing the following in response to a request to perform an operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage area, wherein the means for performing the following comprise:  
~~comparing means for comparing at least one location of the first set of locations to at least one location description, wherein~~  
~~the at least one location description has a corresponding property describing a type of operation; and~~  
performing means for performing the operation upon a given location in the first set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the given location is described in the at least one location description wherein  
the at least one location description has a corresponding property identifying the operation.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42 wherein the at least one location description and the corresponding property ~~describing the type of operation~~ are designated by a requester.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 42 further comprising:  
obtaining means for obtaining a designation of the operation to be performed.

46. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
a module configured to perform the following in response to a request to perform an operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage area, wherein the module configured to perform the following comprises:

~~a comparing module configured to compare at least one location of the first set of locations to at least one location description, wherein the at least one location description has a corresponding property describing a type of operation; and~~  
 a performing module configured to perform the operation upon a given location in the first set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the given location is described in ~~the at least one location description, wherein~~ the at least one location description has a corresponding property identifying the operation.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 46 wherein the at least one location description and the corresponding property ~~describing the type of operation~~ are designated by a requester.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46 further comprising:  
 an obtaining module to obtain a designation of the operation to be performed.

50. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising:  
 instructions configured to perform the following in response to a request to perform an operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage area, wherein the instructions configured to perform the following comprise:  
~~comparing instructions configured to compare at least one location of the first set of locations to at least one location description, wherein the at least one location description has a corresponding property describing a type of operation; and~~  
 performing instructions configured to perform the operation upon a given location in the first set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the given location is described in ~~the at least one location description, wherein~~ the at least one location description has a corresponding property identifying the operation.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 50 wherein the at least one location description and the corresponding property ~~describing the type of the operation~~ are designated by a requester.

53. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 50 further comprising:  
obtaining instructions to obtain a designation of the operation to be performed.

54. (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:  
a processor; and  
the computer-readable medium of claim 50, wherein  
the computer-readable medium is coupled to the processor.

55-61. (Cancelled)